COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Vol. 2, No. 21 March 12, 1966

DOD Ready to Implement Incentive Awards Program

Defense Department is ready to implement its new incentive awards program for military personnel.

The program is the result of legislation passed by Congress last September authorizing use of appropriated funds to pay military personnel for suggestions, inventions or scientific achievements that contribute to efficiency, economy or other improvements in government operations.

Implementation of the law's provisions by military departments has been delayed pending instructions from DOD. Officials say that such instructions should be issued during March. The law allows payment of up to $25,000 for contributions by military personnel, the same maximum amount civilian employees are entitled to.

All active duty personnel, including reservists on active duty for training, are eligible. DOD instructions are expected to include a formula for determining the amount of the cash awards to be made in relation to tangible first-year benefits of the suggestion.

New Medicare Plan Sent to Congress

DOD's medicare improvement package proposing more liberal benefits for military families has been sent to Congress with officials expected to testify later this month.

Significant retiree benefits are proposed. All retirees would pay about 25 percent of treatment and hospitalization costs as opposed to an earlier proposal basing costs on length of service.

Retirees could choose civilian facilities even in cases where military care is available. DOD, however, would retain the option to specify military care.

Admission to veteran's hospitals would be extended to retirees. They would not be required to sign "inability to pay" statements, nor would admission be limited to service connected disabilities.

Among other proposals is one dealing with care of handicapped dependents. This applies to dependents of active duty personnel, although benefits would extend through the first retirement year.

USAREUR VISIT—Mr. A. Tyler Port, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Logistics (left), meets with Gen. Andrew P. O'Meara, Commander in Chief, U.S. Army Europe, during a recent visit in Heidelberg, Germany.

DOD Okays Establishment Of Overseas Credit Unions

The Defense Department has approved establishment of credit unions on U.S. military installations in overseas areas.

A DOD directive signed by Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus R. Vance states that Overseas Credit Unions (OCU) will confine its membership to DOD military and civilian personnel and their dependents who are U.S. citizens and who are stationed or serving within the geographical boundary of the command. OCUs will be limited to on-base operations.

Establishment of an OCU must be consistent with the military mission, the directive explains, and be consistent with any international arrangement related to the presence of U.S. forces in the country concerned.

The directive grants authority to unified command commanders or a designated component commander, to approve or disapprove requests for establishment of an OCU.

Other procedures noted in the directive include: all overseas credit union transactions must either be in U.S. currency or military script prescribed for the area in which the overseas credit union is operating; and no credit union loans may be made for the purpose of purchasing real property in any foreign country.

Washington Memos

GEMINI 8, SLATED FOR launching March 15, will send Maj. David R. Scott, USAF, and Neil A. Armstrong into a three-day orbit of Earth. During the flight, Maj. Scott will spend two hours "walking around the world" and the astronauts will rendezvous and attempt to dock with an Agena rocket launched 100 minutes before them.

DOD ENCOURAGES ESTABLISHMENT of convenient credit union facilities as cooperative organizations created for the purpose of stimulating systematic savings and creating a source of credit for provident or productive purposes.

OVERSEAS CREDIT UNIONS organized by and for Defense military and civilian personnel are to be recognized and assisted at all echelons as important morale and welfare resources, emphasizing self-help and wise management of resources.

REGULATION CHANGE ALLOWS overseas Army personnel to send a greater portion of their overall pay home through the allotment method. Types of pay that may be alloted now include hostile fire, foreign duty and proficiency pay. The change is designed to help ease the gold flow problem. Class E allotments may be used for sending money to dependents or for establishing or increasing stateside bank accounts. The change only applies to overseas personnel.

SEVEN AMERICAN SCIENTISTS have agreed to serve as members of joint US-USSR Editorial Board called for by the agreement on space biology and medicine reached last Oct. 8 by Soviet Academy of Sciences and NASA. Editorial board will supervise collection, preparation and publication of material on space biology and medicine available in the two countries.

BRITAIN'S MINISTRY OF Defense expects to order Type 82 Guided Missile Destroyers for Royal Navy later this year. 5,650-ton ships are built around powerful new weapons system, have remote control steam and gas turbine machinery.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE has released casualty figures showing 2,335 U.S. military personnel killed in hostile action in the RVN from Jan. 1, 1961, through Feb. 28, 1966. In addition, 601 deaths from other causes were recorded.

BRIG. GEN. J. S. HARDIN, USA, Deputy Chief, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, departed New York March 4 for 21-day tour of post and base exchanges in the Pacific.

ORGANIZATION OF THE 1st U.S. Army Aviation Brigade, Vietnam, brings under one headquarters all non-divisional aviation units in RVN. Brigade was organized at Tan Son Nhut under command of Brig. Gen. George P. Seneff Jr., Army's former aviation director. The 1st will provide and supervise all Army aviation support for combat, logistical and counter-insurgency operations by United States and other Free World forces.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS nominated to the U.S. Senate names of 34 USAF brigadier generals for appointment to the temporary grade of major general. Fifty-eight colonels were also nominated for upgrading to brigadier general. When confirmed by the Senate one MG and three BGs will be made immediately. Other promotions will be made as vacancies occur.

AIR FORCE HAS released names of 5,085 majors recommended for temporary promotion to lieutenant colonel, largest major-to-Lt. Col. list since Korean War. Selected officers will be promoted in increments with first 4,000 effective March 20. The selection board met in January and screened records of 6,907 line officers in primary zone and 7,657 in secondary zone.

FIRST SERVICE WOMEN to lose their lives in RVN were two Army nurses. A helicopter crash near Saigon, Feb. 18, claimed the lives of 2nd Lts. Carol A. E. Drazba and Elizabeth Ann Jones. An Army doctor and four helicopter crew members were also killed.

ARMY MOBILITY EQUIPMENT Center, Ft. Belvoir, Va., testing two special air conditioners for cooling and dehumidifying missile fire control vans, communication centers and other electronic systems housing.

PUERTO RICAN RESIDENTS on active duty with U.S. armed forces or Puerto Rico National Guard stationed outside Puerto Rico, can now register to vote by mail.

AIR FORCE COST Reduction Program Second Annual Award for FY65 was awarded to TSgt. Richard J. Berry, USAF, for invention of a fin retainer kit for the "2.75" folding fin aerial rocket. The kit saved $79,400 annually.

U.S. COAST GUARD decommissioned its Scotland Lightship March 4, at Coast Guard Base, St. George, Staten Island, N.Y. Scotland was built in 1907 as Federal Lighthouse Service Lightship 87.

U.S. TREASURY PERMITS taxpayers to receive tax refunds in risk-free, interest paying U.S. Savings Bonds. Check right box on return and the rest is automatic.

VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY, recently returned from nine-nation fact finding tour of Asia, praised American Red Cross activities there and pledged his own continued support, when President Johnson designated March as Red Cross Month.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

Published semi-weekly by the Armed Forces News Bureau, a unified activity of the Directorate for Armed Forces Information and Education, OASD(M). This publication contains official information, news and policy, direct from Washington authorized sources. Reproduction of content 's authorized. Suggested dateline for materials used is WASHINGTON (AFNB).

Background For Commanders

Struggle in Vietnam Part of Worldwide Conflict*

Like most of the conflicts that have plagued the world in recent years, the conflict in Vietnam is a product of the great shifts and changes triggered by World War II. Out of the war, two continent-wide powers emerged—the United States and Soviet Union. The colonial systems through which the nations of Western Europe had governed more than a third of the people of the world were, one by one, dismantled. The Soviet Union under Stalin embarked on a reckless course of seeking to extend Communist power.

This process threatened the freedom of the world. It had to be checked and checked quickly. By launching the Marshall Plan to restore economic vitality to the nations of Western Europe and by forming NATO—a powerful Western Alliance reinforced by United States resources and military power—America and the free nations of Europe built a dam to hold back the further encroachment of Communist ambitions.

When we think of Vietnam, we think of Korea. In Vietnam, as in Korea, the Communists in one part of a divided country lying on the periphery of China have sought by force to gain dominion over the whole. But in terms of tactics on the ground Greece is a closer analogy. For there, 20 years ago, as in South Vietnam today, the Communists sought to achieve their purpose by what is known in their lexicon as a "war of national liberation."

War in South Vietnam

Is the war in South Vietnam an external aggression from the North, or is it an indigenous revolt? This is a question that Americans quite properly ask—and one to which they deserve a satisfactory answer. It is a question which we who have official responsibilities have necessarily probed in great depth. For if the Vietnam war were merely what the Communists say it is—an indigenous rebellion—then the United States would have no business taking sides in the conflict and helping one side to defeat the other by force of arms.

The evidence on the character of the Vietnam war is voluminous. Its meaning seems clear enough—the North Vietnamese regime in Hanoi systematically created the Viet Cong forces; it provides their equipment; it mounted the guerrilla war; and it controls that war from Hanoi on a day-to-day basis.

Some thoughtful critics of our Vietnamese policy maintain that the West should not undertake to defend the integrity of all lines of demarcation even though they may be underwritten in formal treaties. They contend that many of these lines are unnatural since they do not conform to the geo-political realities as they see them.

Proponents of this view advance two principal arguments to support their thesis. They contend that the very weight of Chinese power, its vast population, and its consequent ability to mobilize immense mass armies entitles it to recognition as the controlling force of Southeast Asia. As a second reason for acknowledging the Chinese hegemony, they contend that for centuries China has maintained a dominant cultural and political influence throughout the area. This argument, it seems to me, does not provide an acceptable basis for United States policy.

Nor can one seriously insist that geographical propinquity established the Chinese right to dominate. At a time when man can circle the earth in 90 minutes, there is little to support such a literal commitment to 19th Century geo-politics.

We have no ambition to stay there (in South Vietnam) any longer than is necessary. We have made repeatedly clear that the United States seeks no territory in Southeast Asia. We wish no military bases. We do not desire to destroy the regime in Hanoi or to remake it in a western pattern. The United States will not retain American forces in South Vietnam once peace is assured. The countries of Southeast Asia can be nonaligned or neutral, depending on the will of the people.

We Uphold Freedom

In the long run our hopes for the people of South Vietnam reflect our hopes for people everywhere. What we seek is a world living in peace and freedom—a world in which the Cold War, with its tensions and conflicts, can recede into history. We are seeking to build a world in which men and nations will recognize and act upon a strongly shared interest in peace and in international cooperation for the common good.

We should not despair of these objectives even though at the moment they seem rather unreal and idealistic. For we would make a mistake to regard the Cold War as a permanent phenomenon.

The changes taking place within the Soviet Union and among the nations of Eastern Europe are at once a reality and a promise. Over time—and in a world of rapid and pervasive change the measurement of time is difficult indeed—we may look forward to a comparable development within Communist China, a maturing process that will deflect the policies of Peiping from bellicose actions to a peaceful relations with the rest of the world.

After all, it is not the American purpose simply to preserve the **status quo.** That was not our history and that is not our destiny. What we want to preserve is the freedom of choice for the people of the world. We will take our chances on that.

* (*Excerpts from a significant address given by the Honorable George W. Ball, Under Secretary of State, Jan. 30, 1966.*)

Army to Launch 2 Rocket Probes

Two instrumented rocket probes will be launched at Army Ballistic Research Laboratories, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., for the Defense Atomic Support Agency (DASA) this spring.

The firings will certify payloads which will be used for scientific measurements during atmospheric testing in the event tests now prohibited by Limited Nuclear Test Ban treaty are ever required.

Nike Javelin III, a two-stage rocket, will deliver the modular instrument packages to ionaospheric levels of 120 miles. The flights will originate from Eglin AFB, Fla., which will also monitor the payloads.

Carrier Pioneers New Flight Deck Material

Antisubmarine aircraft carrier USS Bennington is testing a new flight deck surfacing compound under operating conditions.

The product, a plastic compound called poly urethane, is expected to last three to four times as long as previous coatings.

Poly urethane also bonds well with wood and steel, thus acting as preservative of the wood on the flight deck. Crushed quartz sand added to the compound makes it an effective non-skid surface.

BRONZE STAR—Capt. Robert W. Windsor Jr., Chief of Staff for VAdm. Kleber S. Masterson, Commander, U.S. Second Fleet, receives the Bronze Star Medal from the admiral aboard the fleet flagship, heavy cruiser USS Newport News, for combat operations in Southeast Asia.

Bomber, Fighter, 'Boxcar' Used as Army Classrooms

Three of the world's most unusual —and expensive—classrooms are being used to train students at the Army Missile and Munitions School, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

The classrooms, worth $5 million, are three aircraft; a B-47 Stratojet bomber, C-119 Flying Boxcar and an F-89 Scorpion jet fighter, used to provide ballistic training for explosive ordnance disposal units in the safe disarming of bombs.

Six Named by LBJ To Board of Visitors

President Johnson has announced appointments to fill existing three-year term vacancies on the service academies' Board of Visitors.

For U.S. Military Academy the President appointed Gen. James F. Collins, USA (ret.), former CINC of Pacific Army forces and current ARC president, and Dr. Frank A. Rose, University of Alabama president.

Appointees for U.S. Naval Academy are Mr. Edwin D. Etherington, American Stock Exchange president, and Dr. Wilson H. Elkins, University of Maryland president.

U.S. Air Force appointees are Gen. Emmett "Rosy" O'Donnell, USAF (ret.), former CINC, Pacific Air Forces and current USO national director, and Father Joseph Flaherty, Villanova University president.

20mm Cannon Tested As .50 Cal. Replacement

U.S. Army Infantry Board, Ft. Benning, Ga., is testing a 20mm cannon which may replace the .50 caliber machine gun on some tracked vehicles.

Heavier and larger than the armament presently carried on personnel carriers, the new weapon will fire 1,000 rounds a minute and has a 2,000 meter maximum effective range.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Brig. Gen. George I. Forsythe, USA, Asst. Commandant, The Infantry School, **Ft. Benning, Ga.,** to be transferred to Hq., USARPAC, **Ft.** Schafter, Hawaii. **RAdm. Walter F. Schlech Jr., USN,** transferred from CNO to Ankara, Turkey, as Chief, Naval Section, JUSMAT. Senate confirmed nomination of **Brig. Gen. Charles M. Duke, USA,** to serve as a member of the Advisory Board, National Capital Transportation Agency, Washington, D.C. **Maj. Gen. Lewis W. Walt, USMC,** CG. III MAF and 3rd MarDiv, RVN, nominated for promotion to lieutenant general. **Lt. Gen. William W. Dick Jr., USA,** named CG, Allied Land Forces Southeastern Europe, in April. **Lt. Gen. John H. Michaelis, USA,** named CG, 5th U.S. Army, Chicago.

CONTRACT AWARDS

Southern Petroleum Co., West Memphis, Ark.: $1,496,994 fixed-price contract for 4,911,400 gallons of soil stabilizer. **(DSA)**

American Machine and Foundry Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.: $5,614,344 modification to a contract for Ordnance items. **(Army)**

Astrophysics Research Corp., Los Angeles, Calif.: $1,070,335 cost-plus-fixed-fee contract for research of Very Low Frequency propagation. **(Navy)**

Lear Siegler, Inc., Grand Rapids, Mich.: $3,508,516 fixed-price contract for production of aircraft bombing computers (AN-AJB-7). **(Air Force)**